セイレーンの恋 / 後編

Little Mermaid in Love

When I came to, I was floating in the water.

The cold seeped into my limbs,

and I could no longer move them.

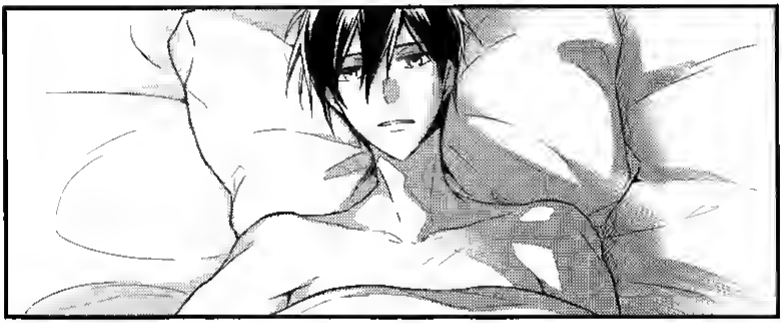
The darkness expanded endlessly.

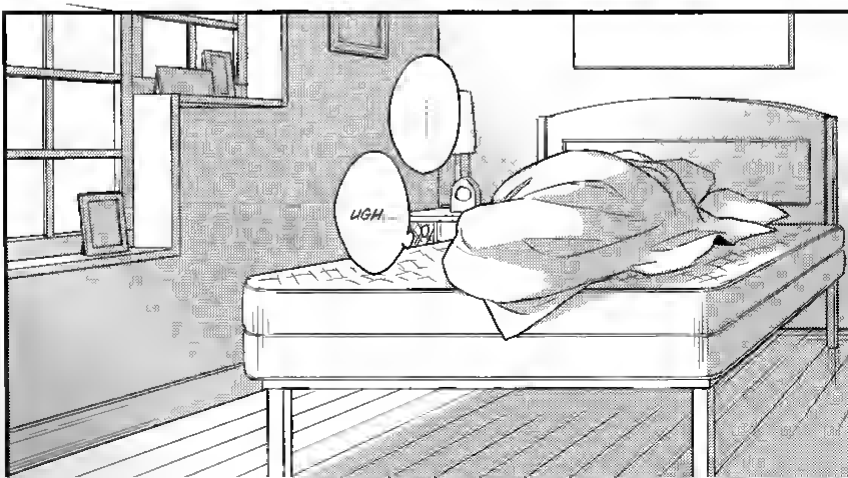
Then...

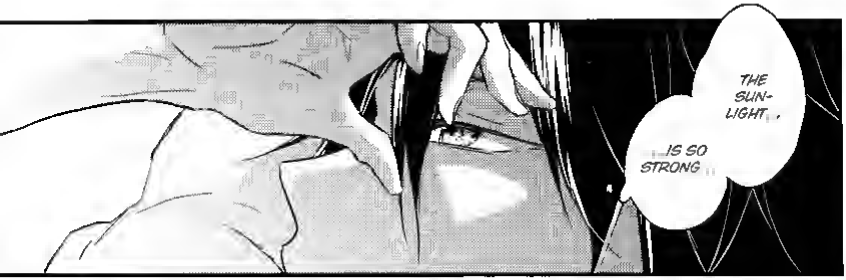
I felt a floating sensation,
as if I'd been scooped up...

I see...
So I was...
...saved by a mermaid.

chirp
chirp




UGH...



It's a land morning.

Little Mermaid in Love

セイレーンの恋　後編

THEN WASH MY FACE
FIRST PUT ON CLOTHES
rustle
THEN SHOES
spaced out
Life as a human is annoying.
There are so many things you have to do, and I'm still not used to it yet.
AH!
...is the glaring sunlight.
glint
step
step
And the one thing I'm most unaccustomed to...
HARU.

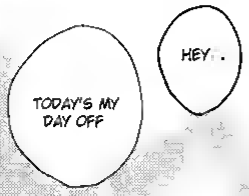
M'RNIN'!
Y'GOD CRAZY B'DHEAD!
OI...
HUUUUG
glint
glint
HEY!
DON'T GET IN MY WAY! GET OFF!
nuzzle
frown
GET. THE. HELL. OFF. OF. ME!!
SHOVE
HYA!

BRUSH
BRUSH
STAY THERE!
UNTIL I'M DONE BRUSHING MY TEETH!
SIT
SHHHHH...

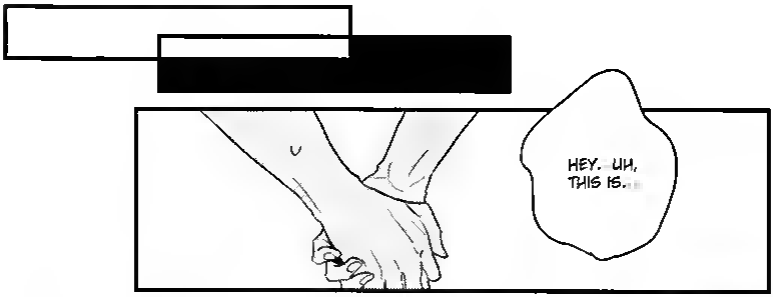
...
HERE, YOUR TURN!
whump
!
...
YOU STARE TOO MUCH.
Ever since that night we kissed...

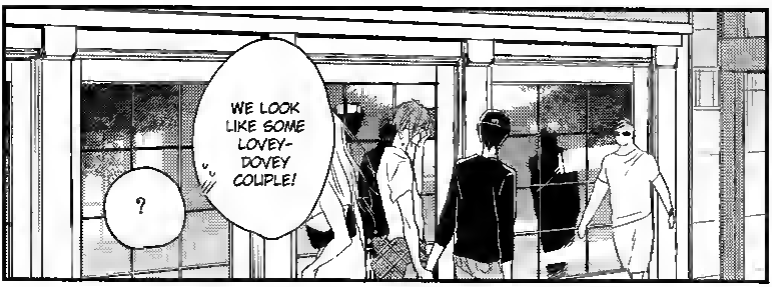
...Rin has been acting strange.
PYESS
??!
I TOLD YOU--
HARU...?
Rin doesn't realize...
...that I want us to be mates.

I want to say that clearly to him...
...but this throat has no sound.
"Look at me properly!"
!
!!!


HEY.
TODAY'S MY DAY OFF

LET'S GO OUT, HARU.



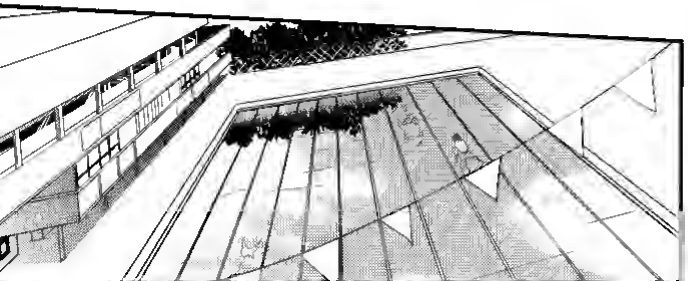


RIN!
JERK
Ah!
SOUSUKE? ON PATROL?
NO... I'M HERE TO PICK UP RALPH...
UGH, GETTING PISSED OUT OF HIS SKULL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY...
Nnnghhh
OUCH, THAT'S TOUGH
YOU'RE OFF DUTY TODAY, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU...
OH, I SEE BABYSITTING
SOUSUKE!

I'LL HELP, SOU-SUKE
THANKS.
'M GONNA GET KILLED BY THE SIREN.
HEY, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
HNN? NNGH..
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE GETTING DRUNK ON THE CLOCK
GOTT, GET IT 'FORE IT GETS ME.
WORRY ABOUT YOUR JOB BEFORE YOUR LIFE.
OH YEAH... MERMAID FLESH...
IF YOU EAT THEIR FLESH... YOU'LL BECOME IMMORTAL.
WHERE'D THAT LE-GEND? IT'S NEWS TO ME...
HUH? YOU MEAN LIKE NOSFERATU AND STUFF?
What's that??
Vampire
Aah
HE'S NOT TOO FAR FROM THE TRUTH...
You won't become immortal though

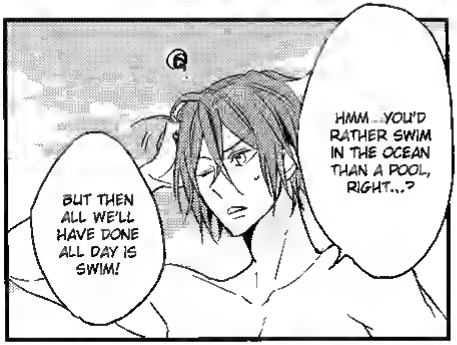
YOU HEARD HIM, RALPH
DO YOUR JOB SERIOUSLY!
GOTCHA THANKS AGAIN
OKAY, WE'RE HEADING OUT!

THAT GUY...



float
SPLASH!
OI! STRETCH FIRST!
WHADYA THINK? YOU LIKE SWIMMING, RIGHT??
marvel
A SMELL OF WATER
THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE OCEAN...
IN THE SPRING, THIS POOL IS FULL OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
HUMANS CAN BE CLEVER FROM TIME TO TIME...

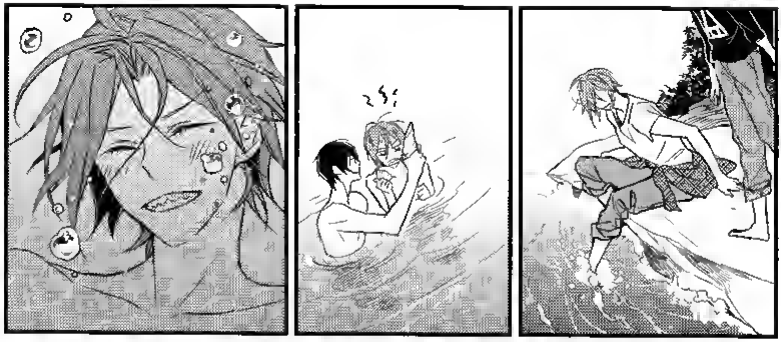
THE WHOLE SURFACE IS PINK--IT'S A SIGHT TO SEE!
I'D LOVE TO SHOW IT TO YOU.
!
PUSH
THANK GOOD-NESS!
?
YOU FINALLY SMILED!
SINCE YOU CAN'T SPEAK--
I'LL GUESS WHAT YOU WANT TO DO!



I love Rin.

To be this happy simply because Rin's smiling...

I realize it's uncharacteristic of me.



But I have seen Rin swimming this happily before.

Ten years ago...

A POOL'S NOT THE OCEAN!
EVEN AN ADULT COULDN'T MAKE IT! LEAVE IT ALONE!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, SOUSUKE?
THAT'S PRETTY FAR—
WE CAN'T MAKE IT.
NO WAY! I CAN SWIM THAT FAR IN THE POOL, EASILY!
THAT MAKES IT ALL THE MORE WORTH-WHILE A CHALLENGE!
LET'S DO SOMETHING EVEN THE ADULTS CAN'T!
He was just another human child I happened to see on occasion.
IM-POS-SIBLE.
NO HUMAN CHILD HAS EVER MADE IT THIS FAR.

Can you see me?
I MADE IT!!
Go m●!
WHADYA THINK??
HOW RIDICU-LOUS...
BEING HAPPY OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

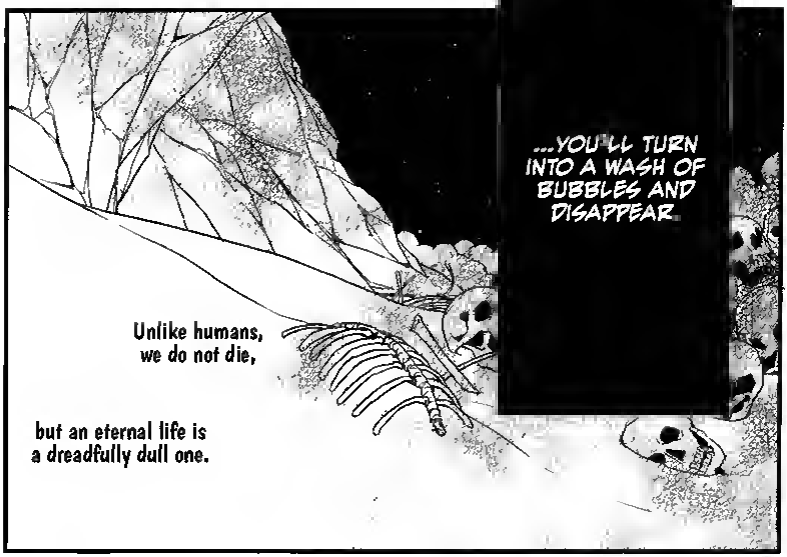
HOW TRAGIC ..
IT WAS DOWNED BY THE WAVES
IT'S VERY STORMY TODAY.
IT'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE
HOW CAN HE HAVE SO MUCH FUN ..
SIMPLY BY SWIMMING?
.....
FISHERMEN ARE A PLAGUE UPON THE SEA
THEY BARGED IN HERE, SO THEY CAN DIE FOR ALL I CARE
IT'S A SUNKEN SHIP, HARU.
I hated humans.
They dirtied the ocean waters to satisfy their base desires.

If only all humans had been as innocent as that young boy...
HE'S NOT HERE.
And the next day,
and the next as well...
the boy failed to appear at the seaside.

Ten years passed since that day.
I vowed that never again...
...would I lose that boy I had never once forgotten.
SO, YOU SEEK HUMAN LEGS?

THIS IS QUITE AMUSING.
A SIREN WHO CURSED HUMANS HAS NOW FALLEN FOR ONE...
I HEARD THAT THE WITCH OF IWATOBI COULD USE MAGIC TO TURN ME HUMAN.
INDEED I CAN.
BUT NOT WITHOUT PAYMENT.
I'LL TAKE YOUR VOICE.

IF THAT WILL MAKE ME HUMAN
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS SPELL IS INCOMPLETE...
YOU CAN ONLY KEEP YOUR HUMAN FORM UNTIL THE NEXT FULL MOON.
SHOULD YOUR LOVE BE RETURNED, YOU'LL BECOME FULLY HUMAN.
MY LOVE... RETURNED...
INDEED... YOU MUST JOIN YOUR BODIES IN MUTUAL LOVE.
IT'S NOT AS DIFFICULT AS IT SOUNDS.
HOWEVER... SHOULD YOUR LOVE BE INSTEAD SPURNED...



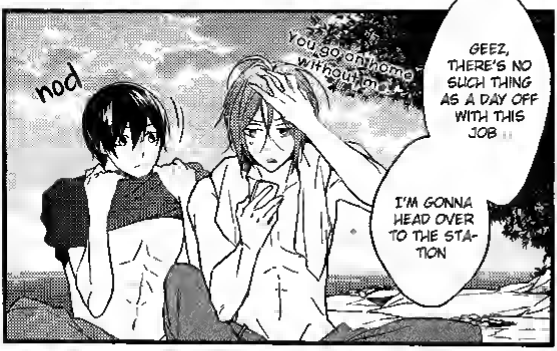
I wanted to know.

What was he feeling?

What world was he living in?

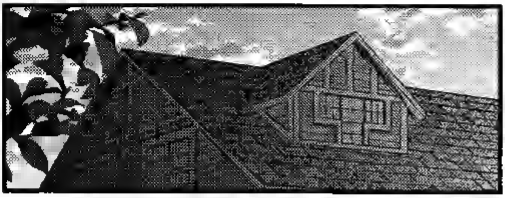
I wondered what sort of sights that boy was seeing.

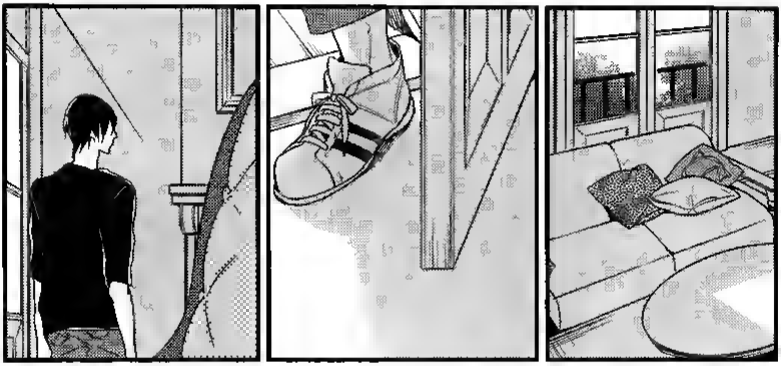
I missed Rin.


nod
You go on home without me.
GEEZ, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A DAY OFF WITH THIS JOB...
I'M GONNA HEAD OVER TO THE STATION

UGH, I'M BEING CALLED AWAY...

BE SURE TO DRY OFF BEFORE YOU GO HOME, 'KAY?
Or Grams'll find out!
ruffle



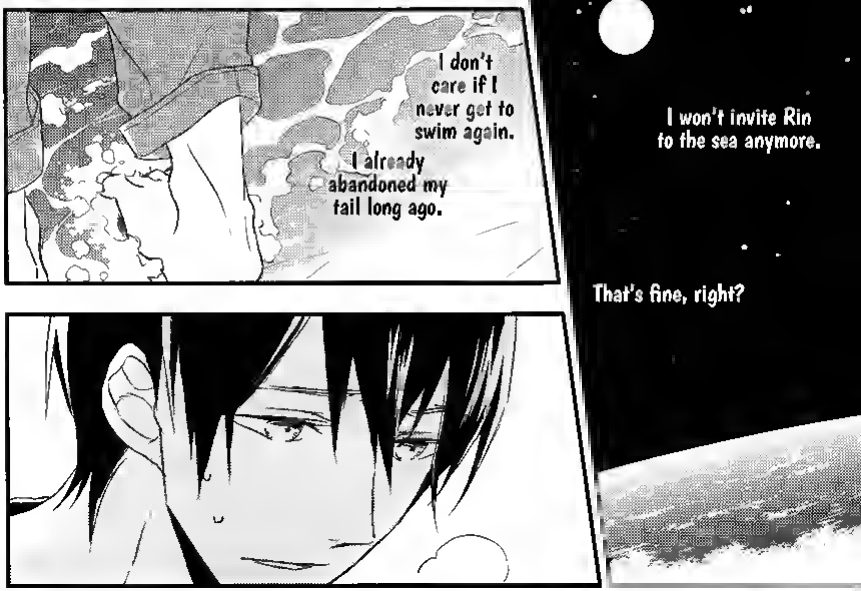


DID YOU GO
TO THE OCEAN?

...YOU TRULY ARE A STRANGE CHILD...
COME HERE.
BUT IT'S STRONGER THAN USUAL TODAY.
YOU ALWAYS SMELL OF THE SALTY BREEZE.

BUT NOT RIN.
AND THAT'S FINE. I THINK IT SUITS YOU.
PERHAPS THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY 'NOT BEING DOWN TO EARTH'—
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I PICKED YOU UP ON THE BEACH, BUT YOU DON'T SEEM USED TO LIVING ON LAND...

RIN'S FATHER DIED AT SEA ON A STORMY DAY, LIKE NOT TOO LONG AGO.
THE BOAT HE WAS ON CAPSIZED, YOU SEE...
No...
THOUGH THAT WAS 10 YEARS AGO NOW.
PLEASE--DON'T *EVER* TAKE RIN TO THE OCEAN AGAIN
AND RIN'S GRANDFATHER, MY HUSBAND--THE SAME HAPPENED TO HIM AS WELL.
ALL OF THE MATSUOKA MEN ARE CURSED BY THE OCEAN.
WHEN I HEARD HE'D DROWNED, I ABANDONED ALL HOPE.
BUT HE CAME BACK TO ME


I don't care if I never get to swim again.
I already abandoned my tail long ago.
I won't invite Rin to the sea anymore.
That's fine, right?

Rin...

I just want to be with Rin...

!?
WHAT'S GOING ON?! AN INCIDENT?
YES, WE'RE SEARCHING FOR A STOWAWAY
THE SUSPECT IS A YOUNG MAN CALLING HIMSELF 'HARU'. REAL NAME UNKNOWN
LAST KNOWN EMPLOYER IS A RESTAURANT IN THE ROCKS
SOUSUKE!

RIN!
WE'RE HEADING OUT. GET CHANGED
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
I HAD HARU DESIGNATED AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT.
!!
DON'T SCREW WITH ME! WHAT EVIDENCE COULD YOU HAVE TO...
I RAN HIS PRINTS.
I TRIED CONTACTING THE FEDS,
BUT THEY DIDN'T MATCH ANY KNOWN MISSING PERSONS OR CRIMINALS.
IN FACT, THEY COULDN'T EVEN CONFIRM THAT THEY WERE HUMAN...
RALPH MAY TELL SOME TALL TALES SOMETIMES, BUT I'M CERTAIN HE'S...
...WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
HE'S OBSESSED WITH YOU

YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER WHO IT WAS THAT SAVED YOUR LIFE THAT NIGHT?
IT...
WASN'T
YOU—?
Then that...
...wasn't a dream...?
Those blue eyes...

The one who was staring at me back then was...

I CAN'T ABANDON HIM, NO MATTER WHAT HE MIGHT BE.

IT'S TIME, HARU.

I GOT THIS FROM THE SEA WITCH...
YOU'RE NEARLY AT YOUR LIMIT...
YOU'LL DIE AT THIS RATE...
...I'LL LEAVE IT HERE.
DO WITH IT WHAT YOU WILL.
IF YOU STAB HIM IN THE CHEST WITH THIS KNIFE... YOUR LIFE WILL BE SPARED.
shake
THAT JUST NOW...

Aah...there they are...

I've wanted to see those eyes for so long...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU LOOKED FAMILIAR...
YOUR EYES...
THEY'RE SO CLEAR...
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU ARE.

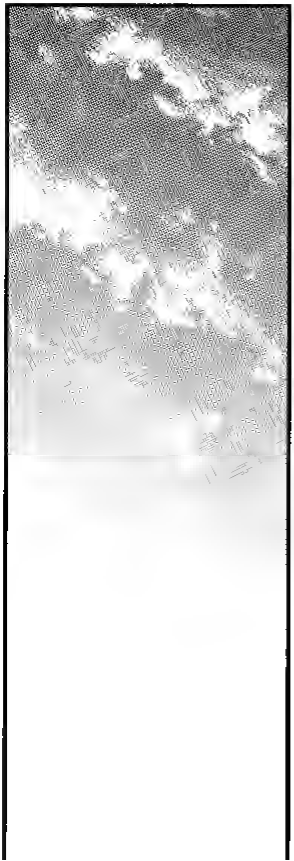
THIS HEART HAS BEEN YOURS SINCE THE MOMENT WE MET...
SHUNK

huff
huff
huff
NOW... YOU'RE FREE.
THIS IS THE LIFE YOU SAVED
I'VE GOT NO REGRETS
...!!
--WHAA!
WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU DONE?! YOU FOOL!!
THERE'S NO POINT TO IT IF YOU DIE!!
inhale

Rin...

When you're by my side, I see new sights.

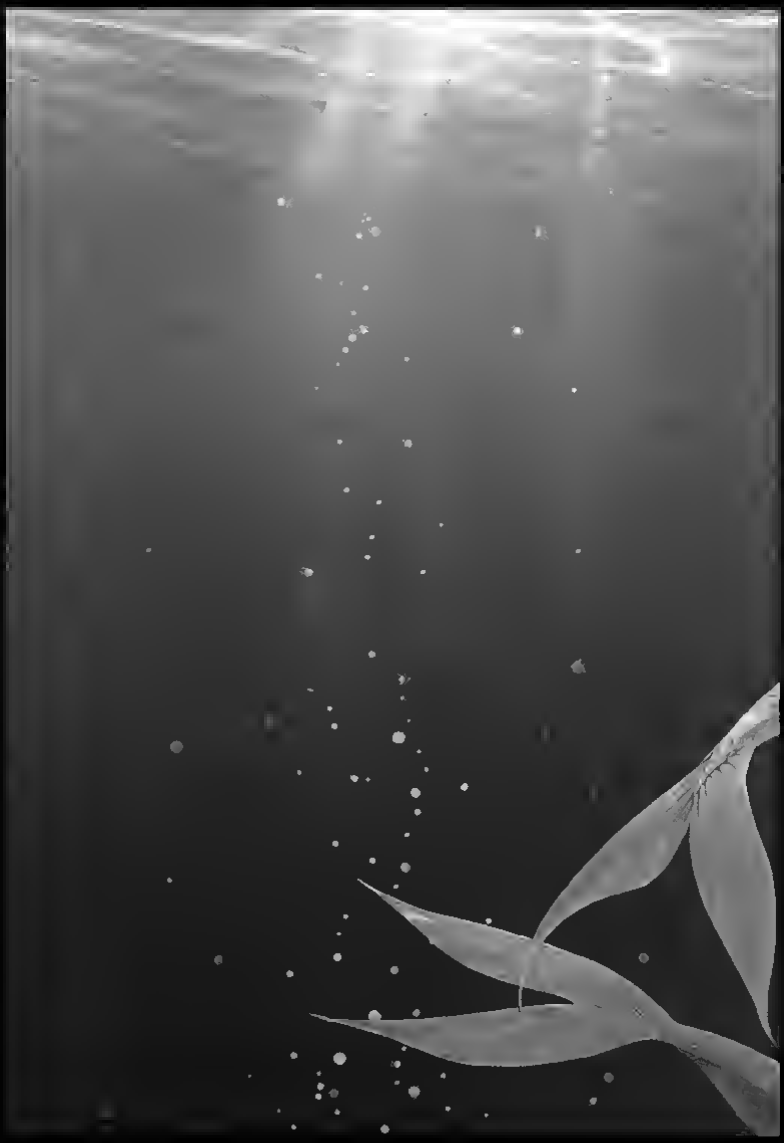
...WANT TO SHARE MY LIFE WITH YOU.
MOUTH
I'M SORRY, RIN...
BUT I WANT YOU TO LIVE... NO M...TTER THE FORM.
bbb
slice
I...
NO... OPEN YOUR EYES!
THIS WASN'T HOW I WANTED TO CON-FESS MY LOV...
I can't survive in a world without you.
RIN...
NO!
The human world, once so filthy,
strangely seems to glitter all around you.
I longed to see that so badly.
I don't regret selling my soul to that witch even the tiniest bit.
Aah, please...pleae don't leave me...



I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.
WHY?
AND WATCH YOUR FOOTING, MA'AM...
WELL YOU GOT DUMPED!
Don't treat me like an old lady!
You ARE an old lady
...
I ALREADY TOLD YOU RIN AND I WEREN'T LIKE THAT...

shhh....
...I PITIED HIM
PITY, HUH...
I SUPPOSE THOSE FEELINGS OF OURS JUST STRANGLED HIM
THE OCEAN WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO LIVE *TOGETHER* WITH, FOR HIM...
WELL...

IT SEEMS THE SEA HAS TAKEN ANOTHER OF MY BOYS FROM ME...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